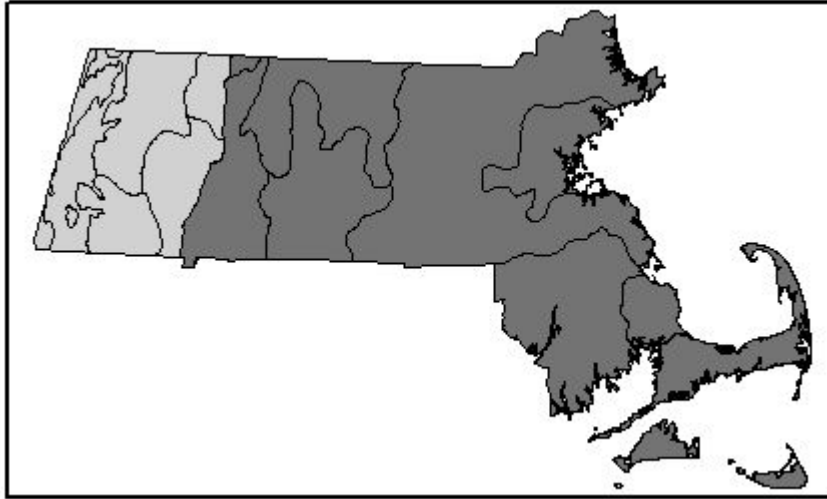


Community Name: WHITE PINE - OAK FOREST

Community Code: CT1A100000

SRANK: S5



Concept: A forest of mixed dominance with oaks and white pine in the canopy.

Environmental Setting: On moraine or till, often dry but not very dry. Grades into Pine - Northern Hardwood to the north. In southern areas occurs near pitch pine - oak forests, and grades into them. Often in a successional sequence from successional white pine forests. Also grades into mixed oak forests. In southeastern areas overlaps with Coastal Forest types: White pine - oak - holly and white pine - oak - beech forests.

Vegetation Description: White pine (*Pinus strobus*) and oak species (*Quercus rubra*, *Q. velutina*, *Q. alba*, *Q. coccinea*, and *Q. prinus*) dominate the canopy layer in a variety of proportions. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and black birch (*B. lenta*), occur regularly but in low numbers. Southern areas also have pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*). Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) is frequently present as a shrubby tree. Usually has a prominent heath shrub layer, with lowbush blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. pallidum*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), sheep laurel (*K. angustifolia*). Other shrubs include maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*). Characteristic species of the sparse herb layer include bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*), and whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*).

Associations: Part of a continuum of dry, acidic communities that contain a variety of tree oak and pine species. More work is needed to define types.

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: There are no species known to be restricted to the White Pine -Oak forest types, most animals in the forest are widespread generalists. Small mammals include white footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*), gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), and chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). Birds that nest in white pine -oak forests include Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), and Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*). If a community occurrence contains vernal pools, newts and Spotted Salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) will live in the humus of the forest floor for most of their adult lives.

Associated Rare Plants:

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth, Carver; Freetown State Forest, Freetown, Quabbin Reservation, Belchertown. Wachusett Meadow WS (MAS), Princeton.

Threats:

Management Needs:

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Pinus strobus - Quercus (rubra, velutina) - Fagus grandifolia Forest [CEGL006293] AND Quercus rubra - Q. prinus - Pinus strobus / Penstemon hirsutus Woodland [CEGL006074].

MA (old name): Part of: SNE DRY OAK/PINE FORESTS ON ACIDIC BEDROCK OR TILL [CT2G2A1000]; and part of: SNE DRY CENTRAL HARDWOOD FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK OR TILL; and Part of: SNE MESIC OAK/PINE FOREST ON SANDY/GRAVELLY SOIL [CT2E2A0000].

ME: Part of: Oak - Pine forest community.

NH: Includes: Dry red oak - white pine / heath / bracken fern community.

VT: Part of: Pine - Oak - Heath Sandplain forest ANDA northern variant is included in: Mesic pine-oak forest.

NY: Part of: Appalachian oak - pine forest or Pine – northern hardwood forest.

CT: Not described.

RI: Part of: Oak - pine forest.

Weatherbee: Dry Acidic Oak / conifer Forest community.

Author: P. Swain **Date:** 8/31/99